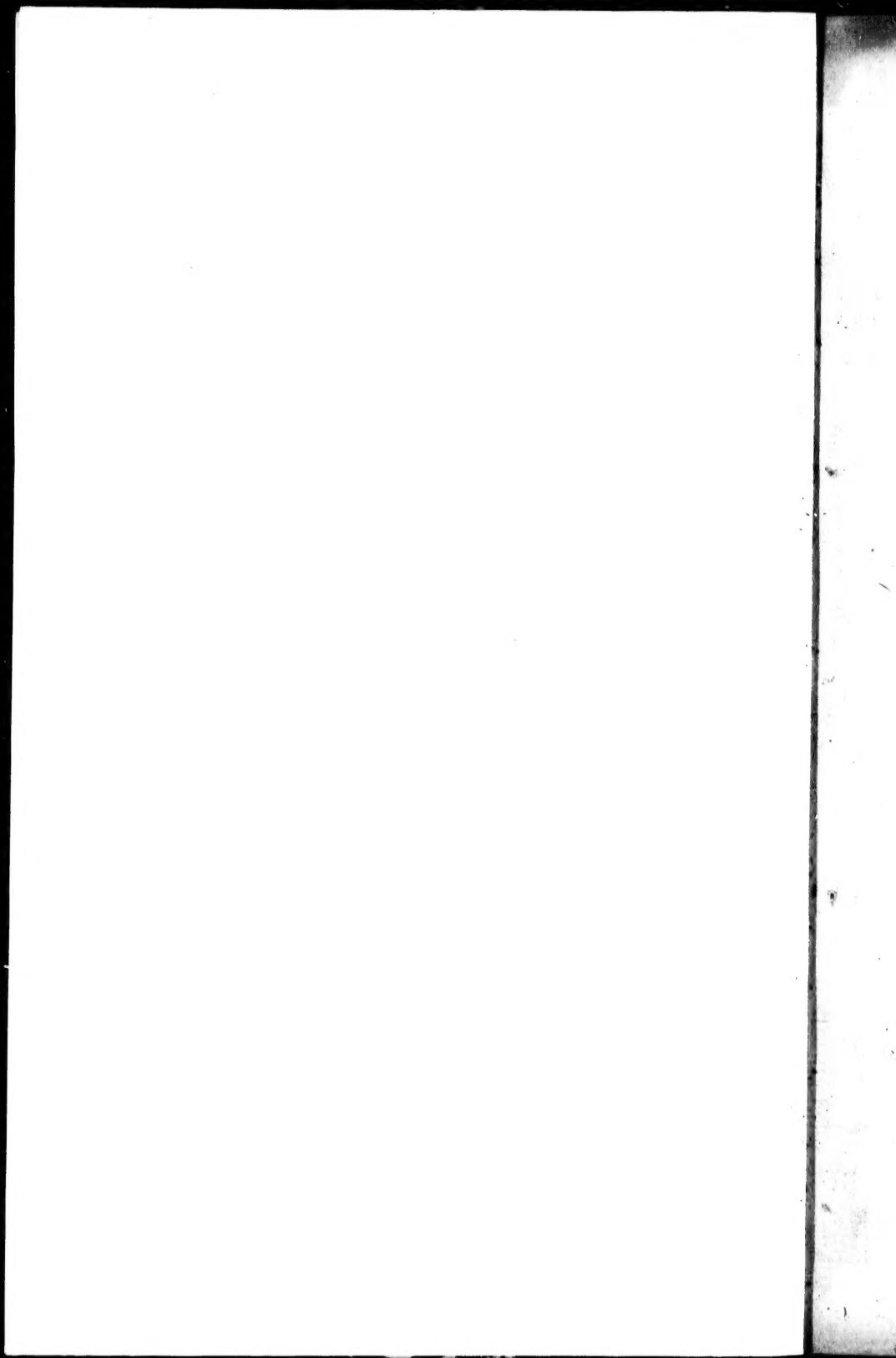




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A

LETTER

FROM A

Member of Parliament

To his GRACE the

DUKE of \*\*\*\*\*

UPON

The present Situation of Affairs.



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A  
L E T T E R

FROM A

Member of Parliament, &c.

MY LORD DUKE,

 T this Period, when all *Europe* has its Attention fixed upon the Conduct of the Ministers of *Great Britain*; when the Measures that shall be taken after his Majesty's Return, are what will decide a Point of the greatest Importance to all the Potentates of our Hemisphere; I thought I might without Offence, address this Epistle to your Grace, wherein, I flatter myself, you will find some Observations, which in the Hurry of Affairs might escape your Grace's Notice, and at the same time, not only be worthy of Attention, but facilitate the

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Execution of those Measures, which may be judged the most expedient.

After a Twelve-month's incessant Preparation, we find ourselves every Day nearer approach towards the open Gates of *Janus*.----*Mars*, who has lately made a Journey to the new World, seems hastening back to his ancient Seat; and *Minerva*, who has only espied from far the Conflict, and little assisted with her Councils, presides (according to the best Accounts of that Goddess) at *Whitehall*.

My Lord, it were trite to acquaint your Grace, who undoubtedly has the best Information, as well as the earliest, with the Situation of Affairs in *America*: particularly at this Crisis, when every *Shoe-boy* is so far an Adapt in *American Politics*, as to tell you we have taken the *Alcide* and the *Lys*, and *Beauféjour*, and *Baye-verte*, and *Braddock's* beat——nay killed. Yet I cannot be persuaded, but that the Measures taken upon this Head, may appear in a very different Light to your  
Grace,

Grace, than what they do to me——altho' the *Gazette* never fails to let us have the most *early, minute, and impartial Intelligence* which the Ministry receives, and which regards the Nation.

It seems still to be a Matter of great Debate, and certainly will remain so, without your Grace, or some other at the Helm, has Indulgence enough to set us, the *Populace*, right in this Point; whether Admiral *Boscawen* had peremptory Orders in his Instructions to seize upon any *French Ships* he should meet with in his Passage to *America*——provided they did not act in a manner to be esteemed Enemies Ships, either by landing their Troops upon our Possessions, or intercepting us in our Voyage? Or, whether the Capture of these Ships, was made in Consequence of the *French* Commanders not paying the Compliment to the *British* Flag? And although this may appear a Matter of very little Consequence to many unacquainted with the Punctilios of maritime Af-

fairs, permit me to say, my Lord, this makes a very essential Difference, not only in Regard to the Legality of the Prizes, but also in the Justice there may be in the *French* making Reprisals on us.

I am not unapprised of the Answers every *Ignoramus*, in the present System of Politics, will make to these Questions--- nay I will anticipate them. Have not the *French* seized on our just Possessions in *North America*, built Forts along the *Ohio*, though running through our Provinces of *Carolina*, *Virginia*? &c.—Have they not usurped five Sixths of *Nova Scotia*, which they ceded to us by Treaty?—— Yes, they have done this, and a great deal more—but what then? My Lord, what then?——I do not forget I am writing to an able Statesman, unprejudiced by popular Clamour, who has Knowledge enough to form a just Judgment, and Resolution enough to abide by it: therefore, my Lord, it is from your Grace I should

should be fortunate in having an Answer to these Questions.

As long as the War was bounded to the Continent of *America*, Fallacy and the most sophisticated Arguments, could never have made us appear the Aggressors: for notwithstanding the false Representations of the *French* Court, in all those of *Europe*, every impartial, unprejudiced Person, must be convinced of our just Pretensions to *Acadia*, or *Nova Scotia*; not only according to its ancient, but its modern Limits; and in spite of the equivocating Interpretation of the Difference between *ceding* and *restoring*, the Treaty of *Utrecht* possesses *Great Britain* of *Acadia*, or *Nova Scotia*, not only to the full Extent of its ancient Limits, but also of all the Lands and Appurtenances generally understood to belong to *Acadia*, or *Nova Scotia*; and upon which the King of *France* could claim any Right, either by Treaty, or any other Way whatsoever. So that there can remain no  
Doubt

Doubt of *France's* having not the least Title or Claim, to any of the Lands that go under the Appellation of *Nova Scotia* or *Acadia*. As to our back Settlements, which the *French* have incroached upon, the disinterested Part of *Europe* must needs be equally conclusive in our Favour; for laying aside the different Grants or Charters, which the *French* pretend are of no Validity, and even the first Discovery of those Lands, we must needs have a very just Title to them, since we have either bought them of the Natives, or had the *French* to own the Inhabitants of them our lawful Subjects. Therefore, my Lord, there cannot be the least Doubt, but all *Europe* must be apprised of the Justness of our Cause, and that when the *French* built Forts upon any Part of these our Possessions, I just mentioned, they usurped our Property, and that according to the Law of all Nations, we had a just Right to drive them off.

But,

But, my Lord, when we began Hostilities by Sea, the Scene shifted—*France* notified to all *Europe* we were the Aggressors; *Spain* was immediately called upon to make good her Engagements with *France*. *Holland* was told, if she took Part in a Rupture between *England* and *France*, her Frontiers would be demolished, and her Towns sacked (this was the *Englisb* of it—though it may run more glib in *French*.) *Genoa* was summoned to keep herself in Readiness, in Case of any extraordinary Operations in the *Mediterranean*—and as to the King of *Naples*, we may very well suppose, he is not backward of improving the most *shrewd Hint*, squinted from the Court of *Madrid*.

Indeed we were told, on the other Hand, that the King of *Prussia* was fast—very fast in our Alliance—(but the tightest Knot is the soonest apt to break)—that a Treaty with the King of *Sardinia* was upon the Point of being concluded, where-

by he would engage to furnish a *Quota* of Troops, to oppose the Measures of the House of *Bourbon* in *Italy* — that 8000 *Hessians*, and 6000 *Saxe Gothians*, were engaged in the *English* Service — which, with the Quotas of the Elector of *Bavaria*, the *Imperialists*, and *Hanoverians*, would make a very pretty Figure in the Empire — especially when joined by that numerous Set of *Russians*, to the Number of 70000, that the *Czarina* furnishes to the King of *Great Britain*, in Consequence of a late Convention. This, my Lord, is what the Public has been told, by reiterated Articles in the public Papers ; the Truth of which your Grace is the best Judge.

As we have not been initiated in this Arcanum of present Politics, by any supreme Authority ; I hope, my Lord, my making a few Comments thereon, will neither give Offence to your Grace, nor any other Person in or out of Power. The K — of P — we are to look upon

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as an Ally, as well as the K — of S —, and yet the first has refused a Passage thro' his Dominions to our other Allies the *Russians*, when they were going to march in the Empire to preserve a certain sacred Spot, which shall be here anonymous; and his S — — n M — — has amicably adjusted his Difference with *France*, for the Violation of the Laws of Nations, in seizing a Criminal upon his Territories, when the King of *Sardinia* had so fine an Opportunity of breaking with the Court of *France*, in order to engage in the Alliance with the Court of *Great Britain*; to oppose the Measures of the House of *Bourbon* in *Italy*.

If this be the Case, as it really appears, by several different Accounts received; what Reason can we have to believe that his P — — n M — — will act in favour of *Great Britain* hereafter, when a Rupture shall break out, in case he enters into no Alliance with his M — — during his Stay at *Hanover*, and as the Foundation of that Alliance

liance seems to be entirely sap'd, by the  
 Breaking off the Negotiation that was  
 upon the Tapis, for the Marriage of  
 the Prince of *Wales* with a Niece of  
 his P——n M——y? Indeed some  
 may imagine, that a Cession on the Part  
 of his *Britannic* Majesty of all his Pre-  
 tensions to the Province of *East Frise-*  
*land*, in Favour of the K—— of P——a,  
 may induce the latter to take Part in the  
 Quarrel on the Side of *England*. But sup-  
 pose it should not, 'tis believed the Relin-  
 quishing any further Right to the Residue  
 of the *Silesia* Loan, with the Interest due  
 thereon, may go a great Way towards soft-  
 ening his P——n M——'s Behaviour  
 —— at least prevent his assisting *France*  
 with above 100,000 Men. And as this  
*Silesia* Loan is but a Trifle for the Sub-  
 jects of *Great Britain* to lose, especially  
 when it is for the Benefit of the common  
 Cause, I see no Reason why this Measure  
 should not be followed. As to any self-  
 interested View preventing it, I am sure,  
 upon

upon proper Application to our H——, the Sufferers might be indemnified their Loss, especially at this Time when *England* does not owe above 80,000,000*l*, and has not engaged to pay Subsidies to foreign Potentates, to the Value of above one hundred and fifty Thousand Pounds yearly.

But, my Lord, to be serious, can you devise any Hopes of engaging the K—— of P—— in our Alliance, as long as *French* Louis-d'Ors and H——r excite him to Arms?——My Lord, they have too many Charms for any ambitious, politic Prince to withstand. And though some deep retrospective Politicians, who judge of the future by the past, assure us very emphatically, that the K—— of P——a's System of Politics will be in this War as in the last——and that he will prefer holding the Scales to be put in the Balance; every one acquainted with public Affairs, knows the Change the System of *Europe* has underwent since the Treaty of *Aix*, will never permit this Prince to be

a mere Spectator——and indeed it were idle to imagine it, when one takes a View of his numerous Army, so much augmented and so well disciplined.

As to the King of *Sardinia*, Probability tells us he will be neuter, as long as the Situation of Affairs does not oblige him to openly side with either Party——then, indeed, perhaps he may become our Ally, because *British* Fleets in the *Mediterranean* are looked upon as great Safeguards to his Possessions.

*Spain* undoubtedly has assured our Ministry ('tis said) that she will take no Part in the Misunderstanding between *England* and *France*——as long as 'tis confined to *America*——What can be more explicit?——and yet we seem to build upon this Assurance, as if *Europe* was added to *America*. While *England* and *France* contend about settling their Limits in the new World, and the only Conquest either makes is a small Fort or two, and then loses its Advantage in the Loss of as many, there  
is

is no Danger of either *France* or *England's* entirely possessing the Continent of *North America* ;——notwithstanding what some of our *Ou-trée-rodомontade* Journalists may conjecture——There is nothing so easy as conquering Empires with Pen and Ink——and yet we find a great Difficulty in dispossessing the *French* of a single Fort, with *five and twenty* Hundred Men against *fifteen* ! I cannot help observing in this Place, that I very much fear these *extravagant, pretended, patriot Journalists*, instead of rendering their Writings of any real Service, produce very bad Effects——A Parcel of *raw young Officers* read these *Excrecences* of the Press with much greater Attention than they do any good Treatise upon the military Art——Fortification, or Geography (*if at all*) ; and by forming their Opinions, in Consequence of these *diurnal Gasconades*, they imagine the *French* Troops a cowardly, starved Set of *Banditti*, that will run away at the Smock of the first *British Cannon*, and by giving no At-  
tention

tention to a Plan of Operations, requisite to be pursued, in Case they should not be quite such Poltroons, we are defeated—— where nothing but the greatest Want of Foresight could prevent the Enemy's Fall.

I hope your Grace will forgive this Digression, which forced itself upon me, and which I wish found no Place in this Letter *for Want of Foundation*. But, my Lord, to resume. While the Contest, or rather War, between *England* and *France* is confined to *America*, I readily believe neither *Spain* or any other *European* Power will meddle in the Broil; it would be impolitic in them to do otherwise, as well as not endeavour to continue this Misunderstanding to that Part of the World only, as long as possible; and the Reason is evident: *England* and *France* are, undoubtedly, the two greatest Monarchies in the World; not only considered as maritime Powers, but as Kingdoms in regard to their Commerce, Power, Wealth. Every Thing combines to  
make

make them not only envied by all the other Potentates of the Globe, but also feared. — Jealousy is a close Attendant upon Fear, as well as Love. This premised, *France*, ever ambitious of extending its Commerce as well as Dominion, will never fail to use every Artifice of accomplishing both. *England*, the only Power which keeps *France* in awe, is as ready to prevent her Incroachments. Therefore *Europe*, *Africa*, *Asia* or *America*, must ever be the Quarter where these jarring Powers contend. As to *Asia* and *Africa* the Possessions of both are there so small, and only as Establishments under the Auspices of the Potentates of those Spheres; that there never can occur any Broils in those Climes which can affect the Tranquillity of *Europe* directly, or sufficiently attract the Attention of both Powers, as to secure that Tranquillity which must ever be in Danger when *France* and *England* have not some remoter Object to contend for. *America* then remains the only Point (be-

side

side *Europe*) that can sufficiently animate them to be earnestly serious about the Consequence. And indeed, my Lord, it is no Wonder it should, when all its Advantages are considered——I could write Volumes upon them, without exhausting the Subject.——In a Word, my Lord, *America* (I mean the Continent called *North America*) is divided between the *English*, *French* and Natives; the latter possessing very little, as to Power, Riches——but much as to Extent of Land——a natural Consequence of their Strength being absorbed by the other two potent Adversaries.——It is, my Lord, the only *real Seminary* of Commerce and Navigation, in the Universe.

The Powers of *Europe*, therefore, will be very well satisfied, when the Continent thereof is not to be made the Theatre of Action for the Contention of the commercial Interests and Glory of *Great Britain* and *France*. The Fable of the earthen and brass Pots sailing together,

together, has for Moral the Danger there is of having too potent Neighbours—— What must the Danger be then for Inferiors, where two, the most potent Neighbours, quarrel?—— It is very well if the first do not receive many Blows in the Conflict from both Sides, and at last have the Battle ended at the Price of their Property, which must be applied to assuage their Opponents. The most refined Politic then for all the subordinate *European* Powers, is to prevent as much as possible the War in *America* from reaching to *Europe*—— or even of its discontinuing in *America*.

But suppose, my Lord, in spite of all their Efforts, the *Hydra* War should swim across the wide *Atlantic Sea* and land upon the Continent of *Europe*. Can any one then imagine the subordinate Powers will not for their own Safety (at least the Expectation of it) join in the then common Cause, and side with the most powerful or most advantageous Party? No, my

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Lord,

Lord, we must then expect to see a Scene in *Europe*, not only the most bloody, but the most general, that the Annals of our *Æra* can produce. *Spain's* Neutrality vanishes instantaneously; *Naples* and *noa* will not long be idle Spectators, no more (I very much fear) than the K—— of P—— and which Side these Powers will declare of, I have no Need to inform your Grace, since their Opponents will be *Britons*, *Imperialists*, *Saxons*, *Hessians*, *Russians*,——may I not add, my Lord, *Dutch*? no, I forgot, the *French* Court has imposed a Neutrality upon them, which they will to be sure obey, in Opposition to all their Leagues with us, offensive and defensive.

Now image to yourself, my Lord, the Theatre of War in *Europe*——a Distribution of *Imperialists* and *Hessians* in *Italy*, to oppose *Neapolitans* and *Genoese*; and *Britons*, *Saxons*, and *Russians* in the Empire, and the *Low Countries*, to oppose *French* and *Spaniards*. The *Ottoman* Porte may perchance,

chance make a Diversion on the Con-  
fines of *Russia*, by the Assistance of the  
*Crim Tartars*, in Favour of *France*; and  
then the *Russians* are summoned to their  
native Clime to keep the *Turks* in Awe,  
which may prove fatal to *Germany*——  
as may a Diversion in *Scotland*, in Favour  
of the Chevalier (which Lord protect us  
from!) by recalling our own Troops to as-  
sist their fellow Countrymen.

Suppose, my Lord, we succeed upon the  
Continent to the utmost Extent of our Ge-  
nerals Wishes, will your Grace take the  
Pains to inform me, if *Great Britain* will  
thereby gain the Advantage of a single  
Acre to reimburse her the hundred and fif-  
ty thousand Pounds, she pays in Subsidies  
to foreign Potentates, to carry on the War?

I hope your Grace may not, by what  
I have advanced, misconstrue the Drift of  
this Letter. I would not be understood to  
recommend the pocketing of Affronts from  
*France*, nor connive at her Encroachments;  
but I should be glad our Admirals and

Commanders acted conformable to their Instructions, and that no precipitate Measures were taken, which in the End might prove fatal to *Great Britain's* true Interests. With this View, my Lord, I hope the Parliament will be assembled soon after his Majesty's Return, and that we may then be informed of the Measures that have been pursued, with their Success; that after they have been maturely examined in the Lords and our House, some Attention may be paid to our Deliberations thereon, anteriorly to any Declaration of War. That this Declaration of War, will then have Place, *nemine contradicente*, is my firm Opinion, according to the little I am acquainted, at present, with public Affairs.—— But would to the Gods! that War were a Sea War and an *American War only*, and that the Continent of *Europe* were as little known to us, in that Respect, as the Continent of the new World was 300 Years ago.

I be-

I believe I need not take much Pains to convince your Grace, how little *England* is concerned in the Affairs of the Continent, so long as *France's* Power is not swelled beyond the Bounds, which limit the Safety of *Europe*. Nor need I assure you, that when her Marine does not exceed the Number or Force of the Ships, which composed it at the Beginning of the last War, *England* need no Way fear her being rivaled in the Dominion of the Seas; or that when *France* is hemmed within her just Limits of *America*, our Strength there will not always counterpoise her's in *Europe*.

Now according to the best and most authenticated Accounts that we have had of the *French* Fleet, it consists at present of 92 Ships, of which 63 are of the Line: our Fleet is composed of 336 Ships, of which 148 are of the Line of Battle — a Fleet sufficiently powerful to make Head against that of *France*, though much augmented, even if it were joined by that of *Spain*. Our

Our *American Colonies* are peopled with Inhabitants, not only rich and powerful, but numerous, when compared to the *French* in those Parts, as the Proportion of twenty to one. Our Settlements there so finely situated along the Coast, that no Power on Earth can prevent our landing and embarking what Number of Troops, Ammunition, &c. we please; which is not the Case with those of *France*, which have no other Communication with the Ocean, than by the River St. *Laurence* through the Gulf of the same Name, and by the River *Mississipi* through the Bay of *Mexico*, both which Communications might, with Facility, be blocked up.

In this Situation, my Lord, what can prevent our reducing the Marine of *France*, to the Standard it was at the Beginning of the last War; or circumscribing the Bounds of the *French* in *America* within their legal Limits? I will answer, for your Grace, *nothing* but the Want of a proper Regulation in Regard to our maritime  
and

and *American* Affairs. Let the most experienced Sea-Officers (whose Names I venerate) have the Command of our glorious Fleet, which when manned with able, true *British* Tars (sure of their Wages and Prize-money, without being left the Prey of Purfers and petty Agents) must bear away every Thing that opposes it. Let the Power and Authority of *American* G——rs be properly circumscribed, so that they may be rather diminished, than the Liberties of the People: then we shall not hear of *Money-Bills* being refused Assent a Twelvemonth together, while public Affairs demanded their being immediately passed, through the Caprice, or something worse, of a G——r. This, my Lord, will go far towards establishing Unanimity in our Colonies, so much wanted, and so little there endeavoured at, by those who ought the most to promote it. And in this Case, I cannot see why the legislative Power is not to interfere, as (we are to suppose) every other has failed: but as I

am

am informed, from good Hands, this is to come very soon under the Inspection of our H—e, I shall add only this, that great Circumspection should be observed in the Choice of that Officer who is to be invested with the Command in Chief of our Troops in that Part: for as a good Intelligence between the different Provinces, and in particular between the Assemblies and Governors, will diligently plan and provide for the Safety of our Possessions; so the Execution of these Plans, by Officers who have Heads as well as *Hearts*, will leave little Room for future *Pamphleteers*, *pretended Geographers*, and *News-Writers*, to animadvert upon the Incroachments of the *French* in *North America*.

This, my Lord, is what I, and every *Briton* should, wish to see take Place; and if, by these Means, the War might be prevented from reaching the Continent of *Europe*, we might very reasonably expect to see it terminated very soon, to the Glory and Advantage of *Great Britain* and  
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her *American Colonies*. Then, my Lord, that sagacious Administration, which so fortunately steers at the Helm, would be enabled to continue the Reduction of the national Debt; which, in Spite of all *sophisticated, venal, and self-interested* Arguments, can never be beneficial to the State; but, on the Contrary, must necessitate the Continuation of those Taxes, which I fear the Indigent (which in every Country are the Multitude) but too heavily feel.

If I were not afraid to engross too much of your Grace's Time, which is so precious to the Nation, as well as yourself, particularly at this Period, I very likely might have swelled this Letter with a few more Pages; but at present I shall take Leave of your Grace, with only adding, I have the Honour to be,

My LORD,

*Your Grace's*

September 1,  
1755.

*very humble Servant.*